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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 2 June 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia dated 31 May 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 16, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Irakli **Alasania**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 2 June 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

31 May 2008

On 31 May 2008 the Press and Information Service of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation disseminated information which states that units and special equipment of the Railway and Engineering Forces of the Russian Federation entered the territory of Georgia, in particular Abkhazia, without agreement with the Government of Georgia.

Georgia has already repeatedly drawn the attention of the international community to the extremely dangerous nature of the steps recently taken by the Russian Federation in blatant violation of international law. In particular, the Russian Federation, through military intervention in Abkhazia, Georgia, carries out annexation of this inalienable and internationally recognized part of Georgia.

Until now the Russian Federation was concealing the beefing-up of its military presence in Abkhazia, Georgia, under the cover of the CIS peacekeeping operation. Now we face an act of open aggression: military units of the armed forces of the Russian Federation entered the territory of Georgia on the basis of the decision of the President of Russia, without any connection with the context of the peacekeeping operation.

The number of the personnel of the railway military forces introduced into the territory of Abkhazia, Georgia, as well as the types of special equipment and the nature of planned works, makes clear that the Russian Federation started to enlarge its military infrastructure in Abkhazia, Georgia, and to prepare for a large-scale military aggression against Georgia.

Georgia categorically demands from the Russian Federation immediate withdrawal of the illegally introduced military units from the territory of Georgia.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is empowered to state that the entire responsibility for all possible results of the aforementioned hostile step lies with the Russian Federation.

Georgia calls upon the international community to immediately take decisive measures to prevent the large-scale military aggression planned against a sovereign State.